

Source of poem or short story

Title of poem or article or essay(s)

Author

Right Verb

Thesis

Introduce the evidence (title, page number, etc)

Cite the quote or support (in quotations)

Explain in several sentences- show the support

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The poem “I Hear America Singing” and the article “Industrialization of America” both focus on the American workforce in the 1800’s. “I Hear America Singing” by Walt Whitman describes the joy and productivity of the American worker, while “Industrialization of America” by readworks.com shows how America became a country of industry, not just a country of agriculture. Both authors portray the American worker, but each writing portrays the American worker in a different way. Several quotes from these pieces show how these texts differ.

Whitman’s “I Hear America Singing” portrays the American worker as a joyous individual, loving the work that he or she does to contribute to the American workforce. Whitman shows many types of workers singing- deckhands, ploughboys, masons, and wood cutters, to name a few-using singing as a symbol of their joyous productivity. He states in lines 13-15, “The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing...Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else.” In this passage,

the mother and the young girls, working at sewing, washing, or taking care of the house is done with song. The line “each singing what belongs to him, and no one else” shows that each American has their own song, joyfully sung, as we live productive, happy lives that make America better.

The readworks.org passage “The Industrialization of America”, on the other hand, shows a much more melancholy view of a worker’s life in America in 1800’s. The sudden growth of factories and industry brought many people into the cities, and many became too reliant on industrial jobs to make a living. The author states in the fifth paragraph, “Skilled craftsmen who lost their jobs to machines weren’t always able to find a new factory job. When they did, they worked long hours and weren’t paid well.” Suddenly, these craftspeople that Whitman spoke of were underpaid, overworked, and lost the joy and sense of accomplishment that they were accustomed to. The growth of industry took away the rewards of working and replaced them with long, difficult, unrewarding labor.